

it labeled a "massacre." On May 24, 1915, the Allied Powers of England, France, and Russia issued a statement charging the Ottoman government of committing a "crime against humanity." President Ronald Reagan in proclamation number 4838, dated April 22, 1981, said, "like the genocide of the Armenians before it, and the genocide of the Cambodians, which followed it—and like too many other persecutions of too many other people—the lessons of the Holocaust must never be forgotten."

The Armenian genocide resolution is offensive to some simply because it characterizes that massacre as "genocide." We do not use that term loosely, but violence on such a tremendous scale has earned that terrible title. These deaths were not caused by the inevitable hostility of war, but by systematic murder aimed at eliminating a people. We gain nothing by pretending it was anything less.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum includes a quote from Adolf Hitler who justified his own atrocities by saying, "[w]ho, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?" Shortly thereafter, the world would learn of the horrors of the Holocaust.

I wonder whether the horrors of the Second World War may have been averted had people loudly and with conviction condemned the Armenian genocide of the First World War. We cannot erase the events of history, and we ignore them at our peril. In the United States, we are still dealing with the consequences of slavery—a blight on our own historical record. But we cannot be committed to the principle of "never again" if we do not acknowledge the evil that first committed us to make that vow.

RECOGNIZING MARIO AND JOE SIMOES FOR THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I am honored to join with my colleague, Mr. COSTA, to recognize these two brothers, Mario and Joe Simoes, for their accomplishments as both immigrants and farmers.

After the death of their mother when they were only 9 years old, Mario and Joe, aged 15, along with their father and younger sister, emigrated from Portugal in search of a better life for their family. Their first jobs were with the Manuel Faria and Sons Dairy in California. In 1970, some 20 years after coming to America, Mario and Joe bought their first dairy farm from this same family. Today, Mario and Joe, along with their extended families, own more than 10,000 cows and farm around 3,000 acres between them.

These brothers, born only 12 minutes apart, embody the hard work and perseverance that are so emblematic of the first American immigrants. They have always shared a special bond that has pushed them to share both their lives and livelihoods with each other. They even share the same wedding anniversary, although Joe was married four years after Mario.

Because of their active involvement in the agricultural community, Mario and Joe were both named as the 2007 Dairyman of the Year

by the Tulare High School's SOPAS Club. Both brothers have served as president of the SPDES and both are members of the TDES, Land O' Lakes Tulare Division, the Dairy Farmers of America, and the St. John's of Tip-ton Men's Club.

On April 25, Mario and Joe will be honored as "Farmers of the Year" at the annual Kiwanis Luncheon in Tulare, CA. On behalf of myself and Mr. COSTA, it is an honor to recognize their hard work and dedication to community. Mario and Joe serve as a constant reminder of the values of this Nation and the unbreakable spirit of the American people.

L. NATHAN WINTERS RECEIVING GIRL SCOUTS AWARD OF DISTINCTION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. L. Nathan Winters of Harlingen, TX, for receiving the Award of Distinction from the Girl Scouts of Greater South Texas.

Mr. Winters has been a valuable member of our community and is known for his hard work and dedication to the Girl Scouts and numerous nonprofit organizations. When serving on the board of directors he was instrumental in acquiring Camp Bayview to serve girls all over South Texas. He also served as president of the Girl Scouts Tip of Texas Council, which later merged with the Paisano Council.

Not only is Mr. Winters dedicated to the advancement of the Girl Scouts, but he is also a remarkable husband, father, and grandfather.

The Girl Scouts of Greater South Texas serves more than 9,200 members in the 4-county area, including girls in low-income public schools, housing authorities, the Texas Migrant Council, and Boys and Girls Clubs.

We are now in an era where more women serve as leaders in our government, corporate board rooms, and communities. The Girl Scouts of America have done extraordinary work in molding young women into positions where they go on to achieve great things. Their mission is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who—as women, leaders, sisters, and mothers—will make the world a better place.

I commend the good work done by the Girl Scouts of America, and the Girls Scouts of Greater South Texas Council for awarding Mr. L. Nathan Winters their Award of Distinction.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. On May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment

of the sovereign and independent State of Israel.

Over the last 60 years, Israel has built a nation, forged a new and democratic society, and created thriving economic, political, cultural and intellectual life. For six decades now, the United States and Israel have maintained a special relationship and the U.S. continues to regard Israel as a strong and trusted ally and an important strategic partner.

On the House floor this week, H. Res. 322, reaffirmed Congress's support for Israel and the bonds of friendship and cooperation which have existed between the United States and Israel and commits to strengthening those bonds. I too support Israel, its continued stability, democratic principles and its important role in the Middle East by extending the warmest congratulations and best wishes to the State of Israel and the Israeli people for a peaceful, prosperous, and successful future.

2008 RETIREES FOR NORTH CENTRAL AREA SCHOOLS, MENOMINEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize four dedicated educators at the North Central Schools in Menominee County, Michigan. These four individuals will be retiring at the end of the current school year and I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives, join me in honoring their decades of service to educating children.

Deborah Bedogne came to North Central Area Schools (NCA) in 1985 after teaching at Marquette Area Public Schools. She has served as a guidance counselor and taught many different courses throughout her tenure at North Central. Her assistance in helping students choose their career path has impacted many lives, as has her dedication to the district and the students. Debbie's guidance will be greatly missed by the NCA community.

Janice Hafeman started her career in education in the North Central community with the Northern Menominee Community School program in 1989. She later came to North Central Area Schools in 1994 and has served as a Teacher of Special Education and Adult Basic Education. Both in and out of the classroom Janice treated all of her students with the utmost respect and kindness.

Donald Palmer began his career at North Central Area Schools in 2006 after serving as Superintendent of Hesperia Community Schools in Hesperia, Michigan. Although Mr. Palmer's time with NCA schools was short in years, it was great in impact, including a column that he wrote in the Escanaba Daily Press about his role as superintendent of schools. Throughout his career he has served as a teacher, principal and a Superintendent at several schools throughout the State of Michigan.

Mark Veaser was a dedicated and loyal teacher at North Central Area Schools for 31 years. He has taught in the very same community that his mother, Nell Veaser, and brother, Greg Veaser, also taught. His wife Barbara continues to teach there as well. Mark